

years.' Crib-biting in the finer-skinned and more sensitive animals is thought to be developed by rough strapping or too energetic grooming, many irritable horses in this way acquiring a habit of laying hold of the manger and fixing the breath during the operation.

"It has been supposed that indigestion, producing those feelings known to ourselves as 'heartburn,' have prompted the crib-biting habit, and the stomach lesions (chronic catarrh, dilation, thickening of the walls, etc.) have been pointed to as evidence in favor of the theory, but they are more probably the result. The enlarged abdomen does not precede the habit, but follows on it, and the post-mortem examinations of horses that have but recently acquired the trick do not show these alterations of structure or diseased conditions.

"There are quite a variety of ways of 'crib-biting,' and many degrees. Some horses only press the incisor teeth of the upper jaw upon the object, while arching the neck and using the muscles connected with deglutition previously named. Others employ both top and bottom teeth. If there is no manger to lay hold of, some other object will be found by the confirmed victim of this habit, such as the bars of the hay rack, the halter chain, or strap, the pole of the carriage when harnessed, or anything that will afford them a slight hold. Confirmed crib-biters have been known to use their own knees and feet for the purpose, and Gunter speaks of having seen foals use their mothers' hocks. Then, there are air-snappers who have so cultivated the art that they are able to do without any object on which to set their teeth. They stand back, with arched neck, the muzzle approaching the breast, make some nodding movements with the head and a smacking of the lips, with a final jerking movement upwards at the moment of accomplishing their object. Crib-biters of the first and second classes may only indulge the habit occasionally, or for a spell, but air-snappers become so obsessed that they take little interest in anything else when not eating, and some will interrupt themselves during a meal to indulge in the practice. Sooner or later wind-sucking ends in ruined digestion, distended abdomen and loss of muscular energy, and shortness of breath. They are wasteful and undesirable animals, dropping much food and making but ill use of what they consume. They are bad neighbors, and often suffer from flatulent colic.

The vice or trick may often be completely cured at the commencement by removing the animal from familiar biting places; by putting him into a loose box instead of a stall; by feeding in a trough on the ground or on the ground itself, in a brick or stone built box, with nothing to lay hold on; by a run at grass, or feeding only with long stuff, which occupies much time and gives the fullest functional activity to the salivary glands and some amount of fatigue to the muscles of deglutition. Punishment only answers while a person is present, and it is observed that many horses only do it when they think they are not observed. Increased labor and less time for amusement offers a cure in some cases. Other remedies tried are movable mangers, used only when feeding; close-fitting muzzles, throat straps of various designs, but all acting on the principle of producing pressure upon the muscles chiefly concerned in wind-sucking. That the strap is the most efficient remedy, probably most will agree, and that any objections to its employment are outweighed by the results. Its habitual use tells its own tale to purchasers, who may see the mark on the poll, if there is nothing to show on the throat. In buying horses, one should look for teeth rounded by crib-biting, as well as for marks of the strap."

Stallion Inspection and a Lien Act.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At a public meeting, held in Paisley, Ont., on Nov. 2nd, by Messrs. John Bright, Myrtle, Ont., and H. G. Reed, Georgetown, the two commissioners appointed by the Ontario Government to inspect stallions and get information regarding the horse industry in the Counties of Huron, Grey and Bruce, over one hundred horse-breeders were present, representing the County of Bruce. The meeting was unanimous in favor of a law providing for compulsory inspection and licensing of all stallions kept for service, the requirements for licensing to be freedom from hereditary unsoundness, and registered in a recognized record of the Dominion of Canada; and also a reasonably good conformation. The meeting was also in favor of a lien act being passed that would give the stallion owners a lien on the mare and foal, as a security for stud fee.

R. NELSON.

Is it Unanimous for a Stallion License and Lien Act?

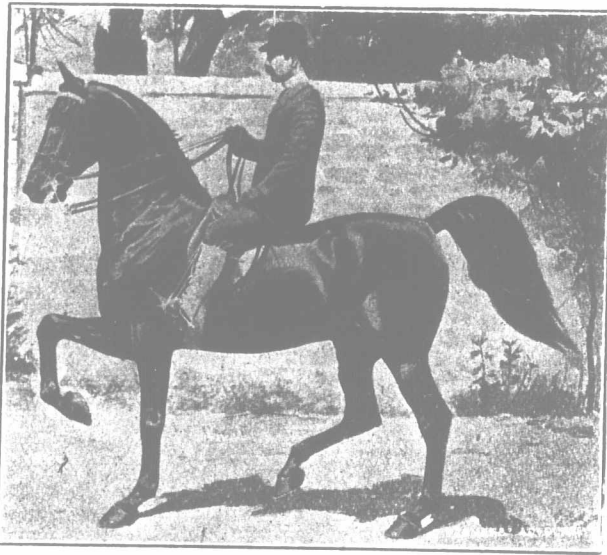
From voluntary reports coming to this office, it appears that stallion inspection and licensing is quite favorably regarded by horsemen in Ontario. The idea of a legal lien on mare, colt, or mare and colt, for protection of the stallion-owner, also seems to meet with favor. Are there any dissentients? Now is the time to ventilate all views.

The American Saddle Horse.

The United States has created two breeds of horses, distinctive in type, and of conspicuous utility—the American saddle horse, and the American trotting horse. On the origin of the saddle horse, Leigh Gordon Giltner, in Bob Taylor's Magazine, says:

"The gaited saddle horse of America may be said to have been primarily the outgrowth of a necessity, the creature of environment and circumstance. Transportation facilities follow always the trend of civilization, and the saddle inevitably antedates the auto and the palace-car. In sparsely-settled regions, where roads are poor and horse-back travel is a necessity rather than a pastime, there arises imperative need of a horse capable of covering long distances, with the minimum of fatigue to himself and the maximum of ease and comfort to his rider. Such conditions and such need existed in the South more than half a century ago, when, out of the exigencies of the situation, was evolved the progenitor of that splendid type known to-day as the American saddle horse.

"Back in the days when Kentucky was growing into Statehood, the pioneer settlers began to bring into the region, destined subsequently to become the most notable equine nursery in the world, two classes of horses—the Virginia Thoroughbred and half-blood, and the pacer from Canada. A cross of these breeds resulted in the production of a very useful type, endowed with intelligence, endurance, ease of movement under the saddle, and some degree of beauty—qualities which, by judicious breeding, have been perpetuated and enhanced until, in their descendants of the present day, the ideal is nearly approached. Gen. John B. Castleman, president of the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, fixes the origin of the American saddle at a period antedating by ten years the foundation of the trotting family, when the Thoroughbred stallion, Denmark,



The Frenchman.

A model gaited saddle gelding.

sired by Imp. Hedgeford, was brought into Fayette County, Kentucky. The sons of this great sire became the progenitors of the Southern saddle, nine-tenths or more of the present famous Denmark strain tracing to Gaines' Denmark, No. 61. By continued adherence to type, there was established a family notable alike for utility, finish and beauty, and as distinctive in gaits, manners and conformation as is the standard horse. From his Thoroughbred ancestry, the saddle derives his fineness of conformation, gameness, courage and quality, while from the humbler and unpedigreed strain from which he springs he inherits the ability to acquire the gaits peculiar to his class—the result being a type adapted alike for pleasure-riding, for long-distance travel, and for cavalry service, it having been repeatedly demonstrated during the Civil War that the saddle-bred horse possessed powers of endurance superior to those of other types.

"For the improvement and extension of this notable type, there was organized at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1891, the National (now the American) Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, and a register, similar to that of the Thoroughbred and trotting horse, was established for the gathering of the blood lines of the breed. The task of laying a basic foundation upon which to build in the registration of saddle stock, involved a vast amount of labor and research. The material at hand was scant and poorly-assorted; the pedigrees of some of the chosen progenitors tangled or incomplete, and data concerning them frequently conflicting and inaccurate. Yet, at length, the task was performed, and the register thus established has been invaluable for the guidance of the breeder, the protection of the interests, and the betterment of the saddle horse by adherence to recognized type.

"The list of fourteen sires originally selected as foundation stock was reduced in 1892 to ten by a revisory committee selected by the association. The revised list is as follows: Denmark (Thoroughbred), by Hedgeford; John Dillard, by Indian Chief (Canadian); Tom Hal (imported from Canada); Cabell's Lexington, by Gist's Black Hawk (Morgan); Coleman's Eureka (Thoroughbred and Morgan); Van Meter's Waxy (Thoroughbred); Stump-the-Dealer (Thoroughbred); Peter's Halcorn; Davy Crockett; Pat Cleburne, by Benton's Gray Diomed."

On the gaits of the saddle horse, Herbert J. Krum writes:

"Until within the past two years, the gaits requisite to be shown for registration by performance were: First, walk; second, trot; third, rack; fourth, canter; fifth, either (a) fox trot, (b) running walk, or (c) slow pace—and five were essential. The walk and canter are natural gaits with all breeds of horses. We find that in walking a horse really lifts his feet one at a time, but that the extensions of the front near and off hind foot are made so nearly together as to convey the impression of moving in pairs. It may be observed here that by the ear, and not by the eye, is the only true way to observe the succession of movement in a horse. In the trot the diagonally opposite feet strike the ground together, resulting in a two-beat sound. In the pace, the fore and hind leg on the same side are extended together; two-beat gait. I think the word 'rack' is a misnomer. It is at best a colloquialism, or, perhaps better, a localism. In the authorities, the words rack, pace, and amble, are practically synonymous, and none have the sense of our use of them. However, as used by horsemen, the word 'rack' means the same thing as the term 'single-foot,' which I prefer, on the ground of expressiveness. Single-foot—that is, each foot striking the ground singly—aptly and truthfully tells the story of this four-beat gait to the ear. While the impulses arise almost in pairs, as in the pace, yet the extension of the hind legs is retarded sufficiently as to alternate with the fore legs, giving in the rapid one-two-three-four sound peculiar to this gait. The slow pace differs from the pace in point of speed. The canter is the slow form of the gallop or run. The perfection of a canter is measured, not by its speed, but by its slowness. The mass is propelled by one hind foot, the other three feet striking the ground practically together and the impelling foot following after. Nevertheless, the legs on each side move in pairs. This leaves us the running walk and fox trot for consideration.

"The running walk is a slow gait—faster than a walk, not so fast as a trot or rack. An extremely exaggerated walk, in point of speed, comes very nearly being accurate. But there is a peculiarity about it, too. In this gait a horse moves forward with seemingly very little leg motion. The knee action is next to nothing, and, on the other hand, the ankle or fetlock-joint motion is excessive. One might fairly say stiff-legged, so far as the upper joints are engaged. Really, the horse seems to easily glide forward in a rapid, four-beat gait, each leg moving independently. For ease to the rider, it is the very 'poetry of motion' idealized. The fox trot, too, is a slow gait. It probably owes its name to some fancied resemblance to the rapid, swinging, all-day trot of the fox in his native haunts, and which he will maintain hour after hour, to the despair of the most ardent hunter. It is the two-beat trot reduced in point of speed—but also with a peculiarity. While the diagonally opposite legs move in pairs, there is a shortening of the extensions, resulting in a peculiar rhythm of what sounds like a one-two, one-two recurrence. Another characteristic is that the hinder parts of the horse feel as though slightly elevated, and cause the sensation to the rider of his being tilted forward in a small degree.

"The slow pace is the gait par excellence for ease and comfort. In this, as in the pace, the two side legs move in union, and the result is a smooth, even effect on the rider, wholly devoid of jolt or jar. In the fast pace, however, there is too much of the rolling motion for great comfort. This brings us, then, to the rack. This is a fast gait, and may be said to be between a pace and a trot. It is considered an easy gait to ride, no matter how great the speed. The rider sits fast in the saddle, simply helping to maintain his equilibrium by carrying the weight of the legs in the stirrups. A person can ride as far as he could ask a horse to go at a fast gait on the rack, without any fatigue or effort. In point of ease and comfort to the rider, the running walk and the fox trot are akin in that they are wholly pleasurable. This consideration of the slow gaits brings prominently to mind the fact that there are really two sorts of saddle horse. The slow gaits and the racks are characteristics distinguishing one sort from the other. They have given rise to a saddle horse called 'the gaited horse,' as distinguished from what is known as the 'walk, trot and canter saddle horse.' The term used in connection with each of these horses characterizes their abilities."

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